



City Administrator's Report

February 2008

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

February 5, 12, & 26: City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

Monday, February 18th: President's Day Holiday, City Offices Closed.

Flags on State Street: www.santabarbaradowntown.com

January 24th to February 4th: Santa Barbara International Film Festival

February 4th to February 15th: Black History Month

February 15th to February 29th: Opera Santa Barbara

February 29th to March 10th: Navy League

City Administrator's Office

What's Going on Inside Santa Barbara? In February's episode of the monthly newsmagazine show, *Inside Santa Barbara*, City TV takes viewers aboard the USS Ronald Reagan, which recently dropped anchor one mile off the Santa Barbara coast. Meet the Captain and hear from sailors who helped clean up areas of town, and local teens who had the opportunity to spend the night on the ship as it cruised down south to San Diego. City TV also goes to Marina 1 at the Santa Barbara Harbor. Find out about the City's plans to upgrade Marina 1. Also, what do you do during the calm before the storm? In this episode of *Inside Santa Barbara*, Channel 18 discovers how many residents and businesses are taking advantage of the City's Sandbag policy to prepare for wet weather. Also, do you believe in signs? In this show, City TV informs viewers about its signage rules. And finally, take time to smell the roses! City TV takes viewers to the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden for the Annual Rose Pruning event.

The February episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m. *Inside Santa Barbara* rebroadcasts on the following days and times: Monday 8 & 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday 5 & 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 & 9:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 & 11 p.m.

You can also [watch streaming video of *Inside Santa Barbara* online](#).

Community Stakeholders Call for Strategic Plan to End Youth Violence. On January 31st, the City of Santa Barbara convened a stakeholder meeting to identify ways to improve communication, coordination and collaboration on youth violence issues. Forty representatives representing youth and family service providers, community foundations, and government agencies attended the meeting. The stakeholder group agreed that the City of Santa Barbara will convene a group of community leaders to prepare a strategic plan to comprehensively address youth violence issues.

Administrative Services Department

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) Annual Filing. Each year, the Political Reform Act requires most state and local government officials, and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income. The deadline for filing Form 700s is Tuesday, April 1st. The City Clerk's Office is preparing to distribute Form 700s to City officials and employees whose position is included in the City's Conflict of Interest Code. City officials, advisory group members, and employees must complete the Form 700 as required by the Fair Political Practices Commission. The Clerk's Office will be working closely with department staff to ensure that Form 700s are filed in a timely manner. Additional information related to the Conflict of Interest Code can be found on the [City's website](#) and at the [Fair Political Practices Commission's \(FPPC\) website](#).

Airport Department

Airport Displays Take Flight. This month, exhibit boards explaining the new Terminal Project will be on display at the Airline Terminal as a component of the Airport's Community Outreach Program. The displays contain illustrations and descriptions of the proposed new, rehabilitated, historic Airline Terminal, new short-term parking lot, and reconfigured loop road access. The exhibits emphasize the sustainability aspect of the project.

And the Survey Says... More than 600 enplaning passengers participated in survey that was administered at the Airline Terminal in September 2007. An analysis of the responses indicated the typical passenger is 47 years old, male, a Santa Barbara County resident, and traveling on business. The survey concluded that 10% of the SBA's passengers account for 50% of the yearly trips. The average customer rating score for overall personal satisfaction of SBA was 8 on a scale of 1-10 (10 being high). The majority of passengers prefer the Santa Barbara Airport over Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Overall, passengers clearly appreciate the staffing care and competence, and the ease of using SBA.

Community Development Department

Form and Function of City Equals Healthy Residents. Last month, the City Planning Division co-sponsored a very informative forum with keynote speaker Dr. Richard Jackson, a nationally recognized expert in the study of how we build our cities and neighborhoods and its relationship to epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and lung disease. In his sometimes humorous presentation Dr Jackson drew on statistics and studies linking automobile usage, condition of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, access to supermarkets and produce shops or the size and location of schools to health issues such as obesity, asthma or other respiratory problems, heart disease and diabetes. Watch the forum online at www.youplansb.org

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission will meet on February 7th, 14th and 21st. The first meeting in March will be on March 6th. Here are some highlights for upcoming meetings:

On February 7th, the Planning Commission will hold an Environmental Impact Report Scoping Hearing regarding the Paseo de la Playa project at Garden and Yanonali Streets, which includes replacing the existing industrial uses with 91 residential condos, 16 affordable apartments and about 44,500 square feet of commercial and mini-storage development. Finally, the Commission will also consider the Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance, which will set standards for location and operation.

On February 14th, the Commission will consider approvals that allow components of the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project to move forward. They will also hold discussions related to *Plan Santa Barbara*.

On February 21st, the Commission will hold a concept review of proposed infrastructure changes in Plaza de la Guerra, intended to improve pedestrian access and make the plaza more usable for the numerous public events and festivals that occur there. The Commission will also continue its discussion on the Radio Square project.

On March 6th, the Commission will hold a concept review of "Arlington Village," a proposed mixed-use project adjacent to the Arlington Theater. Also, the Commission will consider a request to initiate a zone change and General Plan and Local Coastal Program amendments at 210 Meigs Road, adjacent to Washington School, to allow for a land swap between the school and an adjacent property owner, that will allow future consideration of a 5-lot residential subdivision.

Finance Department

December Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Down. The December TOT was down from the previous December, albeit ever so slightly at -0.1%.

This was the second consecutive monthly decline in our TOT revenue. At the mid-point of the fiscal year, year-to-date TOT growth was 2%. This is below the 7% growth rate needed to meet this year's TOT budget.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%
Aug	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%
Sept	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%
Oct	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%
Nov	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%
Dec	575,075	4.0%	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%
Jan	606,484	3.7%	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%		
Feb	699,349	-0.6%	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%		
Mar	872,554	11.5%	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%		
April	941,281	7.5%	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%		
May	1,001,438	11.8%	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%		
June	1,158,018	18.9%	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%		
FY Total	\$ 11,081,510	6.9%	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 7,092,770	2.0%
Budget	\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500	

Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Fire Department

9-1-1 Calls in 2007. The Fire Department responded to a total of 7,497 9-1-1 calls for service. This is about 0.5% more calls than in 2006. Out of the total calls, 4,857 were for emergency medical service. The remaining calls were for hazardous conditions (403), fire calls (267), and miscellaneous calls (1,970) (e.g. traffic accidents, public assists, and false alarms). In addition to these City calls, the department also responded to over 100 wildland fire incidents outside the City limits during the fire season of 2007.

Boat Fire is Suspected Arson. In the early morning hours of January 7th, Harbor Patrol and City Firefighters responded to a boat fire in Marina 1. The vessel was a 35-foot sailboat named *Liz's Diamond*. There was a large amount of fire in the aft section when the first units arrived. Harbor Patrol managed to control the fire before the arrival of four fire engines. The Fire Prevention Bureau is continuing to investigate the cause of this fire, which is suspected as arson.

Chipping Away at Defensible Space. The Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District (WFSBAD), approved in July 2006, provides services to property owners to reduce the impact of a potential wildfire in the high fire hazard area of the City. Beginning in March, vegetation chipping services will be provided to all property owners in the Assessment District area. This is the first year that we have offered this service throughout the entire district. The purpose of the chipping service is to encourage property owners to create defensible space and provide a cost-effective way to dispose of cut material. The City is aiming to re-use 98% of the chipped material as mulch.

Library Department

Flipping Pages with Partners. For the second year in a row, the Santa Barbara Public Library System is partnering with the UCSB campus in a community-wide reading program, UCSB Reads/Santa Barbara Reads. This year's book is *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. The author, Georgetown University professor Pietra Rivoli, chronicles the round-the-world odyssey of an ordinary T-shirt, from Texas cotton-growers, to factory workers in China, labor champions in the American South and an African used-clothing bazaar, to reveal how the global economy really works.

Copies of the book are available at all branches of the public library, and a digital audio version can be downloaded from the Santa Barbara Public Library web site at www.sbplibrary.org. A CD version is also available.

The highlight of **Santa Barbara Reads** *Travels of a T-Shirt* will be the "community conversations" in the library branches during the last two weeks of February that will facilitate a panel discussion of experts. Mayor Blum will participate on the February 28th panel at the Central Library. The author will present a free public lecture on March 5th at UCSB's Campbell Hall.

Book Give-Away. Two hundred copies of *Creating a World Without Poverty*, by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, were distributed to the public in January. UCSB Arts & Lectures received a large gift from an anonymous donor to buy 2,000 copies of the book for dispersal throughout the community, to bring the author to the Arlington Theatre for a free public lecture on January 16th. The Public Library provided convenient off-campus outlets for the free books, and a near-capacity crowd filled the theater for the author's appearance.

AmeriCorps Volunteers. The Library welcomes one new full-time and two part-time AmeriCorps members to the Adult Literacy Program. This is the fifth year that the program has participated in a statewide AmeriCorps initiative in libraries. Over the past four years, AmeriCorps members have donated approximately 13,000 hours of service to the library's Adult and Family Literacy Programs!

Parks and Recreation Department

Blazing the Trail. At their January 23rd meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission recognized the trail volunteer work of Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers (SBMTV). SBMTV organizes volunteer trail maintenance events under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Over the years, SBMTV has sponsored trail maintenance events on the Jesusita Trail, including the portion that falls within the City of Santa Barbara. The most recent trail maintenance event with eighteen volunteers was held on December 1, 2007.

It's All About the Youth. On January 22nd, the Santa Barbara School Districts Board of Education approved providing Youth Serving Partners the opportunity to provide their programs free of charge to students on the four Junior High School campuses. The community and Santa Barbara School District recognize the need to increase opportunities for positive activities for students during the after school hours. The Parks and Recreation Department hosted several outreach meetings with youth-serving agencies to discuss the programs they provide and

potential future program opportunities. Agencies would provide a self-sustaining program using their own resources and provide the program free to students.

At this time, four agencies provided proposals and were approved for campus programs: Police Activities League (PAL), Surfrider Foundation, Youth CineMedia - Shape of Voice, and Club West Track Club. Services will begin later this spring. The District, with principal approval, would provide the facility. The City will provide program coordination, marketing, and registration services.

Celebrating Black History Month. In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Santa Barbara African Heritage Film Series will feature an art exhibit during Black History Month celebrating the rich heritage of African Americans and African descendants around the world. Show Curator Minister Raceal McWhorter is excited to present a collection of works by Ugandan Artist Dan Morris Tumusiime, founder of Art for Peace. Mr. Tumusiime's work includes a number of paintings of orphaned child soldiers. A community celebration and art exhibit reception will be held at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center on Friday, February 15th from 5 to 7 p.m. The public can enjoy this art exhibit Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sunday, February 24th. A variety of other events, films and programs for children will be held in February as part of the [African Heritage Film Series](#). For more information, please call 899-1160.

Pedaling Towards Amgen Tour. The 2008 Amgen Tour of California professional cycling road race will take place February 17-24. This record-setting 'Tour de France-style' cycling road race is staged across many of California's most scenic state roadways. Already considered cycling's most important and successful road race held in the United States, the event's third running will cover more than 700 miles over eight days. For the third year, the City of Santa Barbara was selected as the Stage 6 Start on Saturday, February 23rd. A local organizing committee have planned some fun activities, including a children's bike race and Family Fitness Fair sponsored by Cottage Health Systems. For a schedule of events and further information on the 2008 Amgen Tour of California or to volunteer for race day, please visit www.santabarbaraca.com or www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

Police Department

Cleaning up the Lower Eastside. On January 12th, the Beat Coordinators, Tactical Patrol Force officers, CALTRANS, Public Works, SWAP workers and fifteen Navy sailors joined forces to eradicate an overgrown large scale transient camp area that stretched along the 101 from Milpas Street to the southbound 101 on-ramp at Alisos Street. This area has been subject to a variety of criminal activity and was so overgrown with vegetation that workers had to cut paths with chain saws just to get into the area. Work crews were able to accomplish in one day what would have taken normally three weeks to complete.

D.A.R.E. to Graduate. On January 23rd, the Santa Barbara Police Department graduated over 400 fifth and sixth grade students from their D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education Graduation) program. These students from 6 of our local schools joined the ranks of 17,000 others who have graduated since local inception in 1987. Officer Anita Chamberlain personally educated all 400+ students on the D.A.R.E. philosophy. In addition to discussing the perils of

drug use and violence, Officer Chamberlain taught responsibility and how to make good choices. Each student composed an essay explaining what they learned. The essays were judged and a winner was selected from each class and school. The following students were selected as school essay winners:

Cleveland Elementary School: Joaquin Zarate
Franklin Elementary School: Jackie Lopez
Hope Elementary School: Maisie Zimmerman
Monroe Elementary School: Dolan Ingraham
Monte Vista Elementary School (6th grade): Chris Benwitt
Monte vista Elementary School (5th grade): Keiko Eastman
Santa Barbara Community Academy: Destin Cavazos

Public Works Department

Stormy Challenges. In January, the City experienced major storms with heavy rainfall. Public Works Department crews were prepared and on-call. City crews patrolled city streets and performed preventative maintenance on storm drains and attended to areas of flooding. Flooding occurred in the usual low-lying areas such as the Gutierrez/Salsipuedes/Cota Streets area during the heaviest rainfall. As part of storm-related operations, the crews unblocked clogged storm drains and assisted with traffic control. With the issuance of the National Weather Service's Flash Flood Watch notices, the City provided sandbags to residents at the City's Annex Yard on Yanonali Street. Several water main breaks were reported, most notably at the intersection of Garden and Cota Streets. After a brief interruption in service, crews repaired the break and water service was restored.

Gibraltar Reservoir after the Rain. The affects of the Zaca Fire that burned in the Gibraltar watershed last summer are evident in the reservoir following the January storms. Runoff from the surrounding watershed has carried debris to Gibraltar and the water is churned up and highly turbid. Water Resources staff are evaluating treatment methods should water quality be affected. On a positive note, recent rainfalls continue to augment local water supplies. Gibraltar Reservoir is spilling and water storage in Lake Cachuma has increased by 14,244 acre feet following the storm that occurred on January 23rd.

Sewer Line Shows Success. The new sewer line installed in the Spring Street area last year performed successfully during the recent torrential rains. The larger sewer line was installed to provide greater water conveyance capacity during wet weather. Prior to installation of the new sewer line, the volume of water on the streets and flowing into the El Estero Wastewater Treatment plant at this location would have been expected to cause the manholes to overflow causing spills during heavy rain storms.

New Thrill for Carrillo Hill. The Carrillo Hill Sidewalk Improvements Project started on January 22, 2008 and will continue for approximately three months. This exciting project consists of sidewalks, access ramps, curbs and gutters, retaining walls, a driveway, and landscaping improvements on the north side of Carrillo Street between Miramonte and La Coronilla Drives. Construction activities along Carrillo Street will require temporary traffic control, but one lane of traffic will be maintained in both directions. The completed project will provide an important pedestrian link from the Mesa to downtown and enhance the pedestrian

travel route. When complete the project will encourage public transit and improve access to bus stops.

Waterfront Department

Maintaining the Wharf. Each year, the Stearns Wharf Annual Maintenance and Repair Project helps to extend the wharf's longevity, while maintaining public safety. The City contracted with Schock Construction, Inc. to perform the annual maintenance and repair on Stearns Wharf beginning the week of January 28, 2008 and continuing through the end of March. Weather permitting, the contractor will start mobilizing equipment, materials and install a security/safety chain link fence for their storage area on the Seaward Finger. The day work will be performed Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's scope of work includes the replacement of 32-piles, 40-lineal-feet of pile caps, nine stringers and 300 deck boards along the turn-around area located at the end of the roadway. As in the past, a portion of the work is done on weeknights to minimize disruption of Stearns Wharf tenants and visitors. Work will continue with night pile driving starting the first week of February and will last through March 7, 2008. The entire project is scheduled for completion by March 2008.